

Invasive Weed Watch List

Have you seen any of these plants? If so, notify the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Weed Control program.



**PURPLE
LOOSESTRIFE**



HYDRILLA



**SPOTTED AND
DIFFUSE KNAPWEED**



COGON GRASS



**BLACK
SWALLOW-WORT**



**YELLOW
TOADFLAX**



**DALMATIAN
TOADFLAX**



**TROPICAL
SODA APPLE**

Key identifying features:

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) – Flowers have 6 petals, square stems with opposite leaves.

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) – Hydrilla's small leaves are strap-like and pointed. They grow in whorls of four to eight around the stem. The leaf margins are distinctly saw-toothed. Hydrilla often has one or more sharp teeth along the length of the leaf mid-rib.

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea biebersteinii*) – Flowers pink to purple, rarely white, disc florets. Bracts have 5-7 pairs of comb like teeth, no spine at bract tip. Leaves alternate on stem ½ to 2 inches long.

Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*) – Flowers white to rose or purple. Bracts have comb like teeth with a distinct terminal spine. Leaves similar to spotted knapweed.

Cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) - Off-center midrib on leaf blades, more apparent towards the tip of the blade.

Black Swallow-wort (*Cynanchum louiseae*) – Herbaceous, perennial vine with twines 3-8 feet high. Its leaves are dark green and shiny, opposite, 2-5 inches long, and narrowly to broadly oval with pointed tips. Flowers are tiny and dark purple with 5 pointed, downy, triangular petals that are as long as they are wide. Seedpods are milkweed-like, slender and tapered, and 1.5-3 inches long.

Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*) – Bright yellow flowers with an orange throat and long spur. Linear leaves with a narrow stem.

Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia* spp. *dalmatica*) – Bright yellow flowers with a long spur and heart shaped leaves that clasp the stem.

Tropical Soda Apple (*Solanum varium*) – Flowers white with 5 recurved petals. Mature plants are 3 to 6 ft tall and have white to yellowish spines up to ¾ inch long. Fruit ¾ to 1 ¼ inches in diameter mottled whitish to light green like a watermelon. Closely resembles horse nettle (Carolina nightshade) only much larger.

If you suspect you have found one of these plants:

1. Collect a specimen including roots if possible and press between sheets of newspaper.
2. Photograph the plant at the site.
3. Record the location noting landmarks along with the legal description
4. Describe the type of land use (cropland, road ditch, waste area, stream bank).
5. Describe the location (rocky, wet, dry, sandy).
6. Contact the state weed specialist at the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Weed Control program.